

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (five times amended) An attachment for a hand-held spiral saw power tool, comprising:

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a first rigid attachment portion, adapted to be secured to a forward portion of a hand-held spiral saw power tool in which a spiral saw bit is mountable, wherein when the first attachment portion is structured and adapted to permit the first attachment portion to be secured to the forward portion of the power tool at various selected longitudinal positions therealong, so that when the first attachment portion is in a selected position on the power tool, the tip of a cutting portion of the spiral saw bit extends beyond the forward end of the first attachment portion by a distance at least equal to that of the thickness of the workpiece to be cut by the spiral saw, wherein the attachment portion is further adapted to permit a moving contact between a forward edge of the first attachment portion and an abutting surface of the workpiece to be cut by the spiral saw, the forward edge of the workpiece being substantially flat and defining an opening for the spiral saw, and wherein the attachment portion has an interior diameter at its forward edge which is ~~significantly~~ greater than the diameter of the spiral saw, such that there is a substantial open space between said forward edge of the attachment portion and the spiral saw through which dust moves into the attachment portion, ~~and so that the forward edge of the attachment portion is not in a close-fitting relationship with the spiral saw and incapable of shearing material from the workpiece produced by action of the spiral saw~~, the attachment portion having substantially no openings therein which would allow air into the interior of the attachment during operation of the power tool other than the opening for the spiral saw, and wherein the forward edge of the attachment portion controls the depth of cut of the spiral saw and acts as a stop for the spiral saw when the forward edge of the attachment portion abuts the surface of the workpiece; and

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a dust exit member communicating with the interior of the first attachment portion, said dust exit member extending away from a side surface of the first attachment portion, wherein dust generated during use of the tool is substantially collected within the first attachment portion and then moved out from the interior thereof through the dust exit member by a vacuum device connectable to the dust exit member, such that dust can continue to collect within the attachment portion without affecting the operation of the

tool.

2. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 1, wherein said first attachment portion is arranged so that there is an approximately dust-tight relationship between the first attachment portion and the forward ~~end~~ portion of the power tool.

3. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 1, wherein the dust exit member extends at an angle from the first attachment portion at a connection port rearwardly of the forward edge of the first attachment portion.

4. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 2, wherein the first attachment portion is a cylindrical section having an internal diameter such that an interior surface of the cylindrical section makes said approximately dust-tight connection with the forward end portion of the power tool, near a rear end of the cylindrical section.

E 5. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 1, including an attaching member for removably securing the first attachment portion to the power tool.

6. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 5, wherein the first attachment portion includes a longitudinal slotted opening through which the attaching member extends, permitting a range of adjustment of the first attachment portion longitudinally relative to the power tool, so that the first attachment portion can be used with workpieces of varying thickness.

7. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 3, wherein the dust exit member is a tube which tapers ~~slightly~~ inwardly from its connection point with the first attachment portion to a free end of the dust exit member.

8. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 7, wherein said tube is adapted to mate with a fitting for a hose connection to the vacuum device.

9. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 1, wherein the dust exit member has a diameter approximately at least one half of the diameter of the first attachment portion.

10. (currently amended) ~~AN~~ The article of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion has a diameter ~~at least several more~~ than two times the diameter of the spiral saw.
